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(58) Field of search

A4B

(54) Cover for a food storage and a display area

(57) There is disclosed a cover for a display area of the kind located behind a shop window and comprising an open fronted and open topped cabinet.

The cover comprises a front wall (which may be formed by the shop window) of transparent material, a lid adapted to be raised and lowered by pivoting along a line at or adjacent the upper edge of said front wall and counter-balancing means (such as a system of weights and pulleys) to facilitate such raising and lowering.

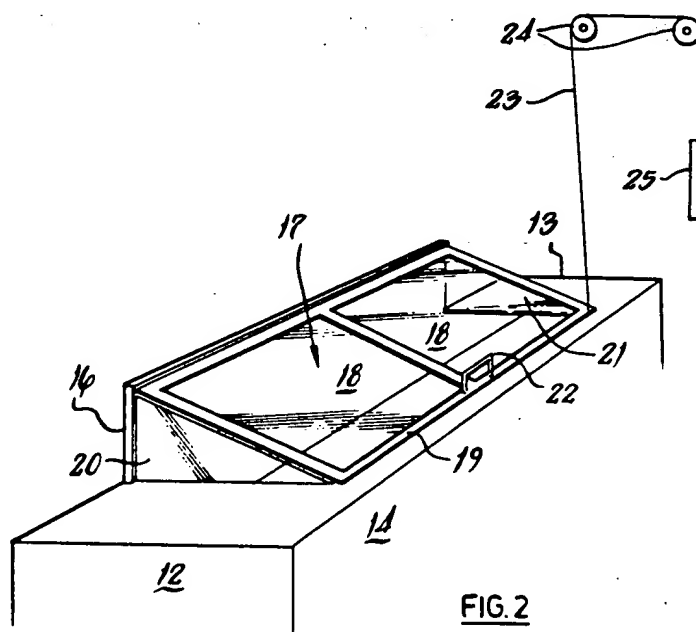


FIG. 2

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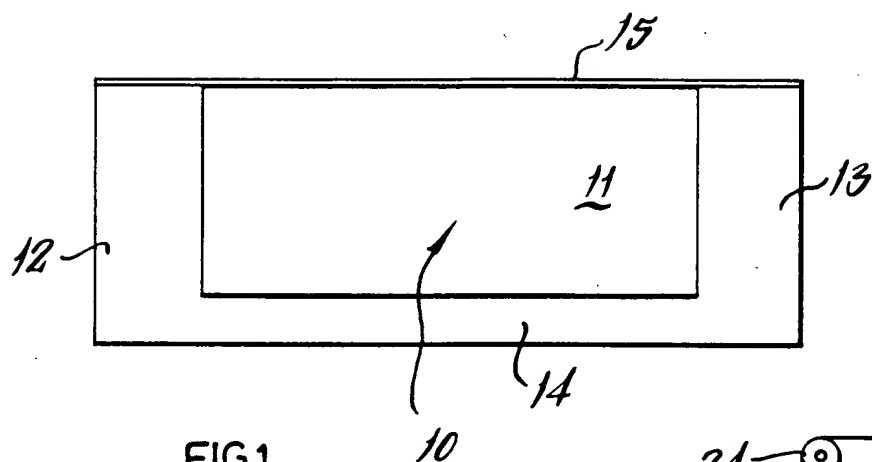


FIG. 1

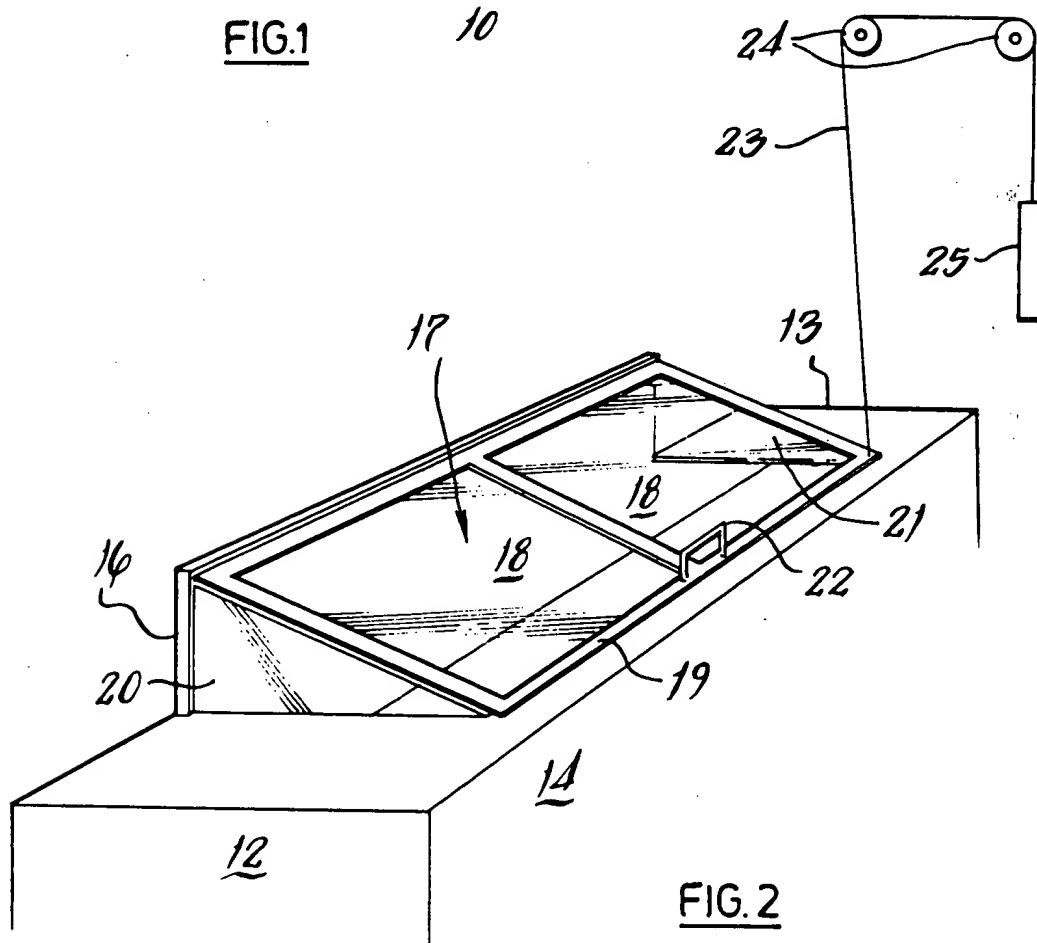


FIG. 2

SPECIFICATION

Cover for a food storage and a display area

5 This invention concerns a cover for a food storage and display area of the kind (hereinafter termed 'of the kind referred to') located behind a shop window and comprised by an open fronted and open topped well defined by
10 a base, side cheeks and a rear wall.

The cover of the invention can however be applied to other kinds of display area once first modified to be of the kind referred to.

According to the present invention a cover
15 for a food storage and display area of the kind referred to is comprised by a front wall of transparent material, a lid adapted to be raised and lowered by pivoting along a line at or adjacent the inwardly directed surface of
20 said front wall and counter-balance means to facilitate such raising and lowering.

Preferably the lid when in its closed position will slope downwardly from said front wall to said rear wall, there being triangular side
25 pieces integral with the lid and adapted to engage with the tops of the side cheeks when the lid is in its lowered position.

The cover has numerous advantages, firstly it protects the food from insects and from the
30 breath of customers and sales people, secondly it acts to prevent drying out of moist foodstuffs by minimizing changes of air thereover and finally it enables the food storage and display area to be kept refrigerated to a
35 desired temperature with a smaller energy requirement than would otherwise be necessary.

The invention will be further apparent from the following description, with reference to the figures of the accompanying drawing,
40 which show, by way of example only, one form of cover embodying the invention.

Of the drawing:-

Figure 1 is a plan view of the food storage and display area to which the cover can be
45 applied; and

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the food storage and display area of *Fig. 1* with the shop window removed but the cover in position.

50 Referring firstly to *Fig. 1*, it will be seen that the food storage and display area generally indicated at 10 comprises an open fronted and open topped well defined by a base 11 up-standing side cheeks 12 and 13
55 and rear wall 14. The forward edges of the side cheeks 12 and 13 abut or are closely spaced behind the shop window 15 such that passers-by can examine items in the storage and display area 10. Usually a refrigeration
60 plant will be provided below the base 11 to chill the area 10.

In accordance with the invention a cover for the area 10 is provided comprising a front wall 16 of transparent material such as Perspex (Registered Trade Mark) and a lid 17
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conveniently comprised by a number of panels 18 of transparent plastics material mounted in a rectangular frame 19. It is preferred that the upper edge of the front wall 16 is located somewhat above the tops of the side cheeks 12 and 13 such that the lid 17 can be arranged to slope downwardly from the upper edge of front wall 16 to the top of the rear wall 18, there being triangular pieces
70 20 and 21 secured to the underside of the opposed sides of the lid 17 to complete the enclosure.

In an alternative arrangement the triangular pieces 20 and 21 may be separate from the lid 17 and may be secured to the tops of the side cheeks 12 and 13.

The forward edge of the lid 17 is mounted for pivotal movement about an axis adjacent the upper edge of the front wall 16. The
80 mounting means may take the form of hinges secured between the lid 17 and front wall 16 or brackets which might conveniently be fastened to frame members which might surround the shop window 15. The precise
85 mounting means will be chosen by conditions prevailing on any particular site.

It is preferred that the mounting means provides a gap having a width of 1cm or thereabouts between the upper edge of front wall 16 and the forward edge of the lid 17. Such gap enables movement of air reducing the incidence of condensation on the inner
90 surfaces of the cover.

The lid 17 is equipped with a handle 22 to enable it to be raised and lowered by a shop
100 assistant to gain access to the food storage and display area 10.

Counter-balance means is provided to facilitate raising and lowering of the lid and this
105 may conveniently comprise a cord 23 extending from the rear edge of the lid 17 and passing over pulleys 24 to join with a counter-weight 25.

In use the cover serves to enclose the food storage and display area 10 thus preventing the food from drying out, protecting the food from insects and reducing the energy requirement for maintaining refrigeration, all without substantially interfering with a customer's
110 ability to examine the goods from without the shop.

The cover or at least the lid thereof can be readily removed for cleaning not only of the cover but also of the food storage area.

120 It will be appreciated that it is not intended to limit the invention to the above example only, many variations, such as might readily occur to one skilled in the art, being possible, without departing from the scope thereof as defined by the appended claims.

For example, the panels in the lid may be of a double-glazed construction if desired to improve the thermal insulation properties.

Yet again a separate front wall need not be provided, a lower part of the shop window
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